

discussions on December 1, 2004, to attempt to work out a resolution to the standoff between the supporters of both presidential candidates;

Whereas on December 3, 2004, the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled that the runoff presidential election on November 21, 2004, was invalid and ordered a new presidential election to take place on December 26, 2004;

Whereas on December 8, 2004, the Parliament of Ukraine passed laws to reform the Ukrainian electoral process, including to reconstitute the Ukrainian Central Election Commission, and to close loopholes for fraud in preparation for a new presidential election;

Whereas on December 26, 2004, the people of Ukraine again went to the polls to elect the next president of Ukraine in what the consensus of domestic and international observers declared as a more democratic, transparent, and fair election process with fewer problems than the previous two rounds;

Whereas on January 10, 2005, the election victory of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko was certified by the Ukrainian Central Election Commission; and

Whereas the runoff presidential election on December 26, 2004, signifies a turning point for Ukraine which offers new hope and opportunity to the people of Ukraine: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the people and Government of Ukraine for their commitment to democracy and their determination to end the political crisis in that country in a peaceful and democratic manner;

(2) congratulates the people and Government of Ukraine for ensuring a free and fair runoff presidential election which represents the true choice of the Ukrainian people;

(3) congratulates Viktor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine;

(4) applauds the Ukrainian presidential candidates, the European Union and other European representatives, and the United States Government for the role they played in helping to find a peaceful resolution of the crisis;

(5) acknowledges and welcomes the strong relationship formed between the United States and Ukraine and expresses its strong and continuing support for the efforts of the Ukrainian people and the new Government of Ukraine to establish a full democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights; and

(6) pledges its assistance to the strengthening of a fully free and open democratic system in Ukraine, the creation of a prosperous free market economy in Ukraine, the reaffirmation of Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty, and Ukraine's full integration into the international community of democracies.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I offer a resolution celebrating the December 26 election in Ukraine. I am pleased that Ukraine has dominated newspaper headlines and media broadcasts all over the world for the last sixty days. In that time, extraordinary events have occurred. A free press has revolted against government intimidation and reasserted itself. An emerging middle class has found its political footing. A new generation has found its hope for the future. A society has rebelled against the illegal activities of its government. It is in our interests to recognize and protect these advances.

I congratulate the people of Ukraine in their undeniable quest for freedom and democracy. Furthermore, I would also like to congratulate President Viktor Yushchenko, who was inaugurated last Sunday, for his victory.

The December 26 election in Ukraine was a tribute to Ukraine's maturing democracy and places Ukraine on a path to join the community of European democracies. A fraudulent and illegal election would have left Ukraine crippled. The new president would have lacked legitimacy with the Ukrainian people and the international community.

With the stakes so high, I commend President Bush, his Administration, and the international community for providing the people of Ukraine with the support they needed to withstand the threats to free and fair elections. Even in the face of repeated attempts to end any hope of a free and fair election, I was inspired by the willingness and courage of so many citizens of Ukraine to demonstrate their passion for free expression and the building of a truly democratic Ukraine.

I am hopeful that the momentum to foster democratic freedom around the world will continue. In his inaugural speech last week, President Bush stated his unequivocal support for democracy and put securing individual freedom at the forefront of America's foreign policy. I agree with the President. We must be prepared to play an active role in ensuring that democracy and basic freedoms are promoted and preserved around the world.

The future of Ukraine rests with its leaders and its people, but the United States and Europe must continue to support a foundation of democracy, rule of law, and a market economy, which will allow Ukraine to prosper and reach its full potential. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to U.S. policy in Ukraine and ask their support for this resolution.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearings have been scheduled before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to consider the President's Proposed Budget for FY 2006 for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of this Committee:

Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m., in Room SD-366—Department of the Interior.

Wednesday, March 2 at 10 a.m., in Room SD-366—Forest Service.

Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m., in Room SD-366—Department of Energy.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those

wishing to submit testimony for the hearing send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, SD-364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Carole McGuire at 202-224-0537.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open executive session during the session on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, at 10 a.m., to organize for the 109th Congress. The committee will also consider favorably reporting the nomination of Michael O. Leavitt, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Brian George, an intern in my office, be granted the privileges of the floor for the duration of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHNNY CARSON

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 10, submitted earlier today by Senator NELSON of Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 10) honoring the life of Johnny Carson.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 10) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 10

Whereas Johnny Carson, a friend to the United States Senate, passed away January 23, 2005;

Whereas Johnny Carson was a philanthropist, friend, and favorite Nebraska native son;

Whereas Johnny Carson was born in Iowa, raised in Norfolk, Nebraska, and made famous in Hollywood as a late night friend to all of America;

Whereas Johnny Carson served in the United States Navy as an ensign during World War II;

Whereas Johnny Carson late hosted "The Tonight Show" for 30 years;

Whereas Johnny Carson was best known as America's late night king of comedy;

Whereas Johnny Carson was one of the biggest stars in Hollywood but never forgot his roots;

Whereas Johnny Carson was respected by his colleagues as a gentleman; and

Whereas Johnny Carson was bright and witty, and always set the highest of standards for his performances: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) mourns the loss of Johnny Carson;

(2) recognizes the contributions of Johnny Carson to his home State of Nebraska;

(3) admires the sense of humor and late night presence of Johnny Carson in homes in the United States for over 30 years;

(4) expresses gratitude for the lifetime of memories Johnny Carson provided; and

(5) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Johnny Carson.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF REVEREND LLOYD OGILVIE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 11, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 11) honoring the service of Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 11) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 11

Whereas a decade ago, on January 24, 1995, the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie was elected by the Senate as its 61st Chaplain;

Whereas Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie is a friend and confidant to Senators, and to many staff members and Senate employees;

Whereas Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie was always a soothing presence in a body whose Members are sometimes at loggerheads;

Whereas Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie is someone upon whom Democrats and Republicans, men and women of different religious faiths, can count as a sympathetic and trusted advisor; and

Whereas after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and until his retirement in 2003, we depended on him even more to strengthen our spirit and help us find consolation in Scripture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the significance of this 10-year anniversary by declaring to the Reverend Lloyd Ogilvie that we remember his loving service to the Senate and this Country, and use this anniversary to express our gratitude to him for his ministry to the Senate family.

COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TROJANS FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 12, submitted earlier today by Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 12) commending the University of Southern California Trojans football team for winning the 2004 Bowl Championship Series national championship game.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as a strong supporter of California's college athletes, I rise today with Senator BOXER in support of S. Res. 12 commending the University of Southern California Trojans football team for winning the 2004 Bowl Championship Series national championship game.

No one who witnessed the Trojans decisive 55 to 19 victory over the University of Oklahoma in the FedEx Orange Bowl can deny that USC is the best college football team in the Nation. Led by Head Coach Pete Carroll, the Trojans brought home their 11th national championship, their 22nd straight win, and 27th victory in a bowl game, second all time to only the University of Alabama.

Not even the most die-hard Trojan fan could have anticipated such a win.

In addition to winning 13 games during the 2004 season for the first time in the history of the school, USC became the first team since the University of Nebraska in 1994-1995 to repeat as Associated Press national champions and the second team to start and finish the season at number one in the Associated Press poll. As the number one team in the country, they took on the best and they beat the best.

Every USC player deserves praise and recognition for their fine play on the field, but I would like to particularly point out the accomplishments of Heisman Trophy winner and Associated Press Player of the Year, quarterback Matt Leinert, who completed 18 of 35 passes for a total of 332 yards and set an Orange Bowl record with five touchdown passes. There were times when he could do no wrong and his play reminded me of a couple quarterbacks from my hometown team, the 49ers: Joe Montana and Steve Young.

Matt has also distinguished himself by announcing that he would return to school for his senior year, foregoing an opportunity to be the first pick in the National Football League draft. I wish more college athletes would follow his lead.

Ultimately, however, this was a team win featuring a high scoring offense and a tenacious defense. USC ranked in the top 10 in every defensive category and set a school record by scoring at least 20 points in the last 38 games.

Led by All-Americans Matt Leinert, tailback Reggie Bush, defensive tackle Shaun Cody, and linebacker Matt Grootegoed, USC brought much pride to the University and the Pacific Ten Conference.

Legions of Trojan fans across the country celebrated the victory and have already made plans for a return trip to the championship game in 2005.

And anyone who has seen a USC game over the past few years knows that another championship run is a strong possibility.

Let me also take a moment to congratulate the University of Oklahoma Sooners for their great season. They were a worthy opponent and a credit to the University and their State.

Years from now, as Americans engage in one of their favorite pastimes and debate the great college football teams of all-time, the 2004 University of Southern California Trojans will surely make the list. I congratulate the team once again for their incredible season and I look forward to watching them make another run at a championship next year.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to the outstanding accomplishments of the University of Southern California football team. Earlier this month, the Trojans completed a perfect season by winning the Orange Bowl and their second consecutive national championship.

Last year, USC shared the championship after being excluded from the Bowl Championship Series title game.

This year, there was no doubt. The Trojans won all 13 of their games and led both the Associated Press and the USA Today/ESPN coaches polls from the preseason through the bowl games.

On Tuesday, January 4, they ended the season with a bang. In a much-anticipated meeting with second-ranked Oklahoma, the Trojans overwhelmed the Sooners by a score of 55-19 to win the Orange Bowl and the national championship in utterly convincing fashion.

I would like to congratulate USC President Steven B. Sample, Head Coach Pete Carroll, and the Trojan football team for an unforgettable season.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the